THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their order dated 25.07.2007 have asked for status report on the following:

(i) Number of unmanned level crossings still to be manned out of 1018 unmanned level crossings identified for manning at Railways' cost.

(ii) The number of train tracks passing through the National/State Highways and whether there is any proposal under consideration of the respective State Governments and still is not co-operating with the railways for constructing the bridges.

Railway has filed the status report as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) No, Sir. During April-October, 2007 only 45 unmanned level crossing accidents have taken place out of total number of 121 cosnequential rail accidents taken place during this period.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Increasing the Speed of New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express

1291. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to increase the speed limit of New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) whether testing of railway tracks has been completed in view of necessary security norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Infrastructure *e.g.* tracks, signaling and rolling stock are being examined, thereafter speed will be increased.

Use of IT to boost revenue

1292. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be-pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways plan to make more use of information technology to boost revenue;

(b) if so, whether the Railways proposed to use IT in a big way during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Railways plan to use IT in four key areas, including freight operation information system, which would be extended to all the line, and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Use of information Technology is an on-going process. New projects are conceived depending on the requirements and commissioned from time to time Report of the sub group on "Research & Development & Information Technology including related networking/ telecom issues" has been finalized and included in the final report of Working Group on Railway Programmes for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.